

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 01965 080940Z

ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2809

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS ASEAN TH, MY

SUBJECT: THAI PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MALAYSIA

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 1787

1. AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF A CALL ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA BIN MOHAMED ALI MARCH 3 TO INQUIRE ABOUT PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALAYSIA FEBRUARY 23-26. ZAKARIA SAID THAT THE MEETINGS HAD GONE QUITE WELL. GOM ALSO SEES HIS VISIT TO OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS IN VERY POSITIVE LIGHT, SINCE IT ENABLED HIM (KRIANGSAK) TO PROJECT A FIRM POSTURE AT HOME IN DEALING WITH COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES WHILE ADOPTING A PRAGMATIC APPROACH WITH HIS COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY THE SRV. ZAKARIA COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH MALAYSIA'S OWN POLICY, AND THAT KRIANGSAK HAD BRIEFED HIS HOSTS ON CONCRETE MEASURES ALONG THESE LINES, INCLUDING HIS VISIT TO THE PRC SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MARCH 23. IN THIS REGARD, KRIANGSAK HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUALA 01965 080940Z

BE "COURAGEOUS, PRAGMATIC AND WISE," ZAKARIA OPINED, CONTRASTING THIS WITH THANIN'S LESS FLEXIBLE APPROACH.

2. GOM IS ALSO HAPPY WITH THE BILATERAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT, ZAKARIA STATED, AND PARTICULARLY WELCOME KRAIANGSAK'S REASSURANCES OF CONTINUED

CLOSE COOPERATION IN MOUNTING JOINT OPERATIONS ALONG THE THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER AGAINST COMMUNIST INSURGENTS. THE THAIS HAD ALSO ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDER AREAS TO IMPROVE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE THERE, THE IDEA BEING THAT DEVELOPMENT IN TANDEM WOULD AVOID DISPARITIES THAT COMMUNISTS COULD EXPLOIT. THE TWO SIDES PLAN TO MEET FURTHER TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF SUCH JOINT DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKINGS. OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION, SUCH AS FISHERIES, WERE ALSO DISCUSSED IN A POSITIVE VEIN, HE ADDED.

3. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, AS INDICATED IN THE PRESS. ZAKARIA REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, BUT WITHOUT CITING DETAILS. (WE WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIMLVNH# THE AGENCIES MOST CONCERNED.)

HE SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD DISCUSSED THE COMMON PROBLEM OF SMUGGLING IN GENERAL, TIN SMUGGLING POSING A SPECIAL PROBLEM.

4. ASKED FOR THE GOM'S AND RTG'S ASSESSMENT OF THE CAMBODIA-SRV SITUATION, ZAKARIA SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY ON THIS OTHER THAN THAT
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PAGE 03 KUALA 01965 080940Z

HIS GOVERNMENT SEES THIS AS A GOOD TIME TO ESTABLISH NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUERY, ZAKARIA SAID THAT THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH KRIANGSAK.
MILLER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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